

## Towns at Superfund Sites Can Ask Funds

The Dallas Office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency has announced that community groups around Superfund sites like the Arkwood site near Omaha can get up to \$50,000.

According to a press release, the money is available "to pay for technical assistance by private experts in interpreting information related to site studies and cleanups."

A site study is underway at the Arkwood site, which is polluted by cancer-causing pentachlorophenol used in treating wood on the site a half mile south of Omaha from 1962 to 1985.

The contamination has spread to two wells and a spring near the Arkwood property and the area is one of 10 Arkansas hazardous waste sites on the Superfund most dangerous list.

Any group wanting EPA technical assistance money must provide 35 per cent of the total cost of the technical assistance itself. The 35 per cent match can be in donated goods and services and there are provisions to waive the match requirement "in cases of demonstrated financial need," the press release says.

"To be eligible for grants, groups must demonstrate that they are threatened by the site from a health, economic or environmental standpoint. Grant recipients must incorporate as non-profit organizations. Among additional eligibility criteria, each applicant must demonstrate that it has established or has plans to establish reliable procedures for recordkeeping and financial accountability in the management of the grant.

"Technical advisors selected to help citizens' groups must possess certain credentials, including a demonstrated knowledge of hazardous-waste issues, academic training in a relevant discipline, such as biochemistry, toxicology, environmental sciences or engineering and must be able to translate technical information into terms understood by lay persons," according to the press release.

The funds were made available March 24 and the agency said it would provide a manual on the grant program and other aids, including videotapes.

More information is available from a toll-free number: 1-800-424-9346.

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